

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 CEA-02 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 180830Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9867

INFO US MISSION NATO 2243

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 4278

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER JULY 17, 1975

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: RUMOR PRESENTS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT

REF: ROME 6752

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: RUMOR ADDRESSED ALL OF THE SERIOUS ISSUES - INFLATION, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, REFORMS, LAW AND ORDER, CHURCH/ STATE RELATIONS - IN PRESENTING HIS GOVERNMENT AND PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT WHICH IS EXPECTED TO VOTE CONFIDENCE BY JULY 21. RUMOR'S EVENTUAL SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO FURTHER DEFINE AND ENACT SPECIFIC REMEDIES TO COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. FACT THAT THERE ARE NO EASY ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT GOVERNMENT SHOULD REINFORCE ITS COHESION. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRIME MINISTER RUMOR PRESENTED GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM TO

PARLIAMENT EVENING JULY 16. DEBATE IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE WITH SUCCESSFUL VOTES OF CONFIDENCE BY JULY 21. RUMORE DESCRIBED PRESENT MOMENT AS ONE OF "GRAVE DIFFICULTY" REQUIRING "SACRIFICES BY ALL" AND DECLARED THAT GOVERNMENT'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS STRUGGLE AGAINST INFLATION WHICH, HOWEVER, MUST NOT HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT UPON ECONOMIC RECOVERY, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL LIQUIDITY. HIGH ON LIST OF ECONOMIC GOALS (SEE/REFTTEL) ARE CONTROL OF FOOD AND RENT PRICES, AS WELL AS MEASURES TO STREAMLINE INVESTMENT. RUMOR PROMISED THAT GOVERNMENT WILL DO ALL NECESSARY TO PRESERVE PUBLIC ORDER AND WILL ENACT MUCH DISCUSSED POLICE POWERS LAW "IN FULL RESPECT OF CONSTITUTION". LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO REFORM OF PENAL CODE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES. RUMOR STRESSED NEED TO PRESERVE "RELIGIOUS PEACE" NOTING NEED TO UPDATE CONCORDAT WITH HOLY SEE, BUT AVOIDING DIRECT REFERENCE TO DIVORCE REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SPRING. HE PROMISED GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH LABOR UNIONS WHO HAVE "HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY" TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY. REGARDING RELATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS RUMOR PROMISED "NO CONFUSION OF ROLES" BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, AND RESTATED GOVERNMENT'S ACCORD TO ACCEPT PARLIAMENTARY/CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OPPOSITION ONLY IF MAJORITY PARTIES ALREADY IN AGREEMENT AND IF SUPPORTING VOTES FROM OPPOSITION SIMPLY AUGMENTED, RATHER THAN SUBSTITUTED FOR THOSE OF COALITION.

3. IN FOREIGN POLICY FIELD, RUMOR FIRMLY REITERATED ITALY'S ESTABLISHED POSITIONS ON ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, DETENTE, EUROPEAN UNITY AND THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY. WITH REGARD TO EUROPE, ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE PUSH FOR EXPANDED POWERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND ITS ELECTION BY POPULAR SUFFRAGE. RE THIRD WORLD, RUMOR SAID GOI WOULD CONTINUE URGE "COMPLETE DECOLONIZATION" OF AFRICA PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. "ITALY WATCHES WITH INTEREST," HE SAID, THE CSCE AND PLACES PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE UPON THE MEDITERRANEAN, CALLING FOR CONFERENCE ON MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION, "WHEN THE SITUATION PERMITS". RUMOR REFERRED TO DEADLINES IN US/EUROPEAN NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE, TARIFF AND MONETARY MATTERS AND ON THE GENERAL FUTURE OF EUROPEAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS. FOR THIS DIALOGUE, RUMOR URGED THAT EUROPE DEVELOP A COMMON PLATFORM IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE "PARTNERSHIP" WITH THE U.S.

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4. "COURAGEOUS", "INCISIVE", "REALISTIC", WERE AMONG ADJECTIVES USED BY SPOKESMEN OF ALL COALITION PARTNERS IN APPRAISING RUMOR'S ADDRESS. IN LEAD EDITORIAL SOCIALIST PARTY ORGAN AVANTI DECLARED THAT SPEECH HAD BEEN "FAITHFUL IN SPIRIT AND LETTER" TO ACCORDS REACHED BETWEEN CENTER LEFT PARTNERS PRIOR TO GOVERNMENT'S APPOINTMENT. COMMUNISTS' REACTION FOLLOWS THEME THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS STEP FORWARD FROM ITS

CENTRIST PREDECESSOR, BUT NONETHELESS IS INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO NATIONAL NEEDS. LIBERALS HAVE PROMISED POLICY OF RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION, AND IN KEEPING WITH PLI NATIONAL COUNCIL DECISION LAST WEEKEND WILL VOTE AGAINST PARLIAMENTARY CONFIDENCE. FAR-RIGHT MSI HAS ASSUMED NEAR-TOTAL OPPOSITION TO RUMOR GOVERNMENT, WHICH THEY ASSERT "VIRTUALLY INCLUDES COMMUNISTS."

5. COMMENT: RUMOR HAS ENUMERATED IN DETAIL THE PROBLEMS WHICH COALITION PARTNERS AGREE THEY MUST FIRMLY TACKLY IN COMING MONTHS. HOWEVER, HE HAS SPELLED OUT IN ONLY GENERAL LINES THE APPROACHES AND MEANS WHICH GOVERNMENT WILL EMPLOY. EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT'S GOALS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED DEPENDS LARGELY UPON HOW MUCH OF THEIR PRESENT RESOLVE CENTER LEFT PARTIES ARE ABLE TO RETAIN WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY GET DOWN TO NITTY-GRITTY OF MAKING LAWS AND SHAPING POLICIES. ONE FAVORABLE OMEN, HOWEVER, IS REALIZATION BY MANY THAT THERE REMAINS NO COMFORTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT FORMULA.

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